

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 MCT-01 SY-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /093 W

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P R 141409Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3177

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 11276

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJ: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ISSUE: EDITOR CLAIMS

POLICE ATTEMPT INTIMIDATION

1. GEORGE GITHII, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER IN KENYA "DAILY NATION" TOLD CHARGE HE WAS SUMMONED FROM HIS HOME AT 6:00 A.M. OCTOBER 12 BY FIVE ARMED POLICE, WHO TOOK HIM TO FARM OWNED BY POLICE COMMISSIONER HINGA. HE WAS HELD THERE FOR TWO HOURS, DURING WHICH HINGA (KENYA'S TOP POLICE OFFICIAL) COMPLAINED ABOUT DAILY NATION PRESS TREATMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ISSUE. DAILY NATION HAS STRONGLY BACKED GROUP RESISTING CHANGES IN SUCCESSION PROVISIONS OF CONSTITUTION, WHILE HINGA IS ASSOCIATED WITH ADVOCATES OF AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD REMOVE VICE-PRESIDENT FROM LINE OF SUCCESSION.

2. GITHII, WHO WAS RELEASED AFTER TWO HOURS, REGARDS HINGA ACTION AS BLATANT EFFORT TO INTIMIDATE HIM PERSONALLY AS WELL AS HIS PAPER. (IT IS WIDELY KNOWN IN KENYA THAT HINGA WAS IMPLICATED IN ASSASSINATION OF PROMINENT MP J.M.

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KARIUKI LAST YEAR BY PARLIMENTARY INQUIRY COMMISSION).

GITHII PLANS TO BRING SUIT AGAINST POLICE, WHICH WILL
HAVE EFFECT OF PUBLICIZING INCIDENT AND ADD NEW FUEL TO
CONTROVERSY OVER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. IRONICALLY,
SUCH A SUIT INVOLVING ACTION OF POLICE OFFICIAL APPARENTLY
MUST BE BROUGHT AGAINST ATTORNEY GENERAL AS GOVERNMENT'S
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER; IN THIS CASE, ATTORNEY GENERAL IS
PRIME LEADER OF FORCES HINGA WAS TRYING TO INTIMIDATE
AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO GIVE FULL COOPERATION TO PLAINTIFF.

LINDSTROM

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